

# **Quiz Tool**

Final Report for CS39440 Major Project

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Software Engineering (G600)

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## **Declaration of originality**

I confirm that:

- This submission is my own work, except where clearly indicated.
- I understand that there are severe penalties for Unacceptable Academic Practice, which can lead to loss of marks or even the withholding of a degree.
- I have read the regulations on Unacceptable Academic Practice from the University's Academic Quality and Records Office (AQRO) and the relevant sections of the current Student Handbook of the Department of Computer Science.
- In submitting this work I understand and agree to abide by the University's regulations governing these issues.

Name: Michal Goly

Date: 26th April 2018

## **Consent to share this work**

By including my name below, I hereby agree to this dissertation being made available to other students and academic staff of the Aberystwyth Computer Science Department.

Name: Michal Goly

Date: 26th April 2018

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to coffee.

# Abstract

Student engagement and live knowledge monitoring are vital in the provision of good quality lecture content in 2018. It is important to make sure audience understands concepts presented, and quizzes can help lecturers judge students' understanding in real time.

Aberystwyth University currently uses Qwizdom[1] live polling tool during the provision of some lectures and practical sessions. The university operates under a single license forcing lecturers to book sessions before they can use the tool. Due to human nature, session hijacking occasionally occurs to the bemusement of both students and lecturers. For example, students could be shown biology slides half way through their geography lecture.

This project focused on the design and development of an in-house built Quiz Tool, enabling multiple lecturers to use it at the same time and potentially making Qwizdom redundant in the future. This ambition could only be achieved if the project was of high quality and its future maintainability was considered at all stages of the design and development.

The Quiz Tool allows lecturers to login using their Google Single Sign-on[2] credentials, upload their PDF lecture slides and create *Lectures* in the system. Each *Lecture* can be then edited, and eligible slides can be marked as quizzes. True/false, single and multi choice style quizzes are supported. Once a lecturer is happy with their *Lecture*, he can broadcast it and receive a session key which can be shared with students. Lecture slides will be shown to all students and the lecture can be delivered in a traditional fashion up to the moment a slide has been marked as a quiz. Students will then be able to answer the question and polling results will be presented in real time to the lecturer. Lecture sessions broadcasted in the past are kept, and students' answers can be exported as a PDF report for future analysis.

The tool is composed of a back-end with an associated database, and two front-ends. One for lecturers and one for students. Finally, the tool has been successfully developed using an agile methodology, adjusted for a single person project.

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# Chapter 1

## Background & Objectives

### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 Motivation

I enjoy programming, and this project seemed to involve a lot of coding. I was also excited to build a complex, real time system, while applying my previous software engineering experience and learning new technologies at the same time. I knew I would be given a lot of freedom to choose the most appropriate tools for the task, and incorporate modern software development practices, including continuous integration and containerised environments, to deliver good quality software. I was also keen on developing something that could be actually useful to the university once I leave Aberystwyth. It is more motivating to develop a product, while knowing it could be potentially used in real life, as opposed to being forgotten after the submission. I have experienced being presented with wrong slides during a lecture in my first year at university, so I was happy to address the problem of a single session Qwizdom license with my tool.

#### 1.1.2 Technology Considerations

##### 1.1.2.1 Programming Languages

The initial proposal was to create the classroom quiz system using Java[3] to run it natively on Android[4] mobile devices. The lecturer was supposed to create quizzes on his teaching machine, by interacting with the system using a web front end. Lecture slides were then supposed to be broadcasted to his audience, and they could use their mobile phones to answers questions, which would be then sent back to the lecturer for analysis. I have had previous experience with native Android development, therefore this approach seemed like a reasonable option. The only problem was, iOS[5] devices are very popular in the United Kingdom, and developing an app for Android would exclude a good percentage of students from being able to actively participate in lectures presented. I have therefore started to think about alternative approaches.

The second possibility was to use React Native[6], a JavaScript[7] framework allowing developers to create mobile applications in JavaScript and compile it down to both iOS and Android. This approach would still require the web front end for the lecturer to be developed, and a natural choice would be to use React[8] to keep the learning curve as low as possible.

The final alternative considered, was to develop the whole tool as a web application. This way both the front end for lecturers and students could be developed using the same framework. Members of the audience could participate in lectures by accessing the web application using web browsers installed both on their mobile phones, regardless of the operating system, and their laptops. I considered both React and Angular 4[9], since I have already briefly used it before. React is a library for developing user interface, whereas Angular is a web development framework. The only caveat with using Angular is that the developer needs to learn TypeScript[10], which compiles down to JavaScript.

#### **1.1.2.2 The WebSocket Protocol**

The Quiz Tool was supposed to allow a lecturer to broadcast his slides to all the students participating in a lecture. This requires a bidirectional communication protocol between the server and the clients. For example, if a lecturer emits the next slide of his presentation, this change should be pushed to the back end, and then the back end needs to be able to send the new slide to all the students. Students' clients should also be able to push quiz answers back to the back end, so they can be presented to the lecturer in some form.

The WebSocket Protocol can be used to create such real time systems. It enables two-way communication between a client and a remote host, making it ideal for instant messaging, gaming applications, and the Quiz Tool. It uses a single TCP connection for traffic in both directions[11].

#### **1.1.2.3 Prototyping**

I have followed various tutorials to quickly prototype proof of concept applications, in order to learn more about the technologies which could be useful during the Quiz Tool development. I started with the Socket.io chat tutorial. Socket.io is a JavaScript library enabling bidirectional event-based communication, and uses the WebSocket Protocol internally[12]. I have created a chat application following one of the tutorials on their homepage[13]. I have also learned the basics of Angular by following the Tour of Heroes tutorial[14], and finally tried to understand how Angular could work together with Socket.io by following the MEAN Socket.io tutorial[15].

#### **1.1.3 On-site vs External Hosting**

The initial plan to handle authentication in Quiz Tool was to use the university LDAP[16]. This way, lecturers would be able to provide their university credentials, which would be checked using the Bind operation against the university directory of users, to check if a given person is authorised to use the tool. This would require the Quiz Tool to be deployed to a production environment running within the university intranet. The alternative was to deploy the application to an external cloud hosting.

#### **1.1.4 Similar Tools**

Qwizdom[1], is the tool currently used by the university to embed quizzes into presentations to judge students' understanding of the content presented. It has to be installed on lecturer's machine as it is a desktop application. Qwizdom integrates with Microsoft PowerPoint[17], by adding an

extra toolbar allowing the lecturer to insert quiz questions into his presentations and then broadcast them. Once a presentation is started, a session key appears which can be shared with the audience. They can then use the key to join the lecture and answer questions once they become available.

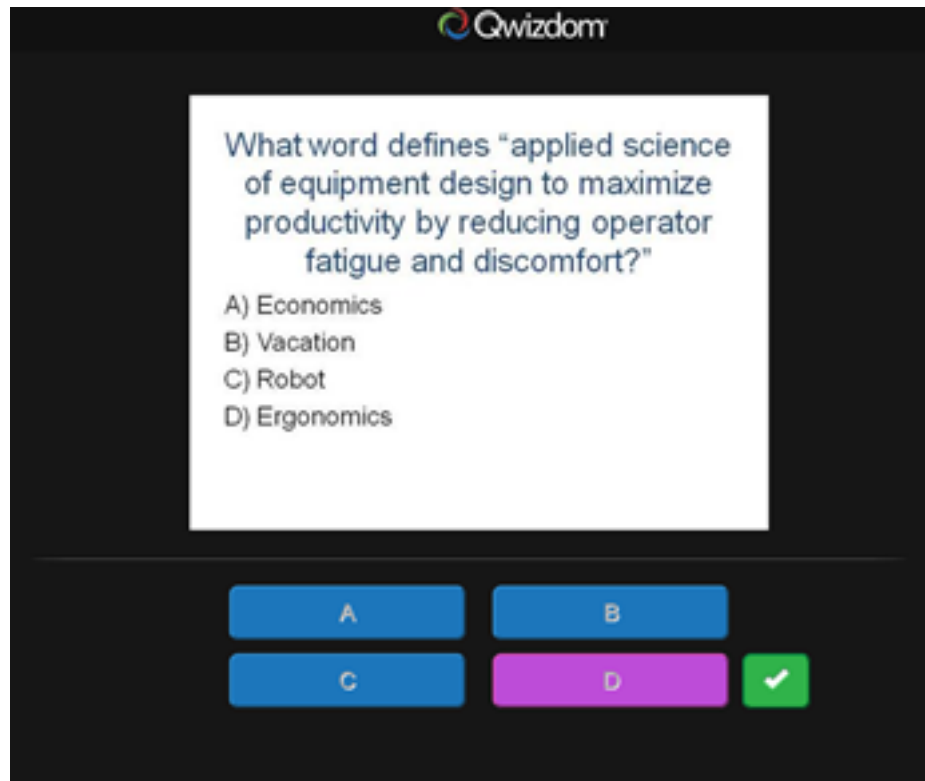


Figure 1.1: Qwizdom web view for the audience

## 1.2 Analysis

### 1.2.1 MEAN Stack

Having considered various methods of developing the Quiz Tool, I have decided to choose the web application approach. Allowing students to access the tool using both their mobile devices and laptops, combined with the relatively low learning curve both for me, and for anyone maintaining the software in the future, made it the best option in my opinion. Furthermore, I have decided to develop the application entirely in JavaScript based technologies using the MEAN stack[18].

MEAN stack consists of four elements:

- MongoDB is a JSON document storage NoSQL database
- Express is a minimalistic JavaScript web development framework
- Angular is a front end web development framework
- NodeJS is a JavaScript engine

Front ends for both lecturers and students would be written in Angular, NodeJS would be used on the back end together with Express, and the persistence layer would be provided by MongoDB.

### 1.2.2 Docker

Each part of the application would be containerised using Docker[19], and containers would run together in the same fashion on the developer's machine, and the build engine using docker-compose[20] container orchestration tool. Docker is an open source engine which can be used to wrap an application and all its dependencies into a lightweight container that can run on any machine capable of running containers[21]. Docker-compose on the other hand, is a tool for defining and running multi-container Docker applications.

### 1.2.3 AWS Production Environment

Unfortunately, the on-site hosting provided by the university to students to deploy their final projects to was inadequate for the DevOps infrastructure I wanted to put in place. I wanted to have a machine capable of running docker-compose, and some form of continuous integration agent. The LXC debian containers[22] were not compatible with either docker-compose, or Jenkins[23]. The Quiz Tool would be therefore deployed to the production environment provided by an external cloud provider AWS[24], and an alternative build agent would be used. The GitHub Student Developer Pack[25] offers \$150 worth of credits for the Amazon cloud, which is why AWS was chosen.

### 1.2.4 Build

Continuous integration and deployment would be provided by Circle CI[26], as it is relatively easy to work with and is very similar to Travis[27], while not being overly complex like Jenkins[23]. Its major advantage over its competitors is the ability to build projects stored in private repositories, free of charge to a certain amount of build hours per month. Continuous integration and deployment are software development industry practices that enable teams to reliably release new features and products. Code is integrated and merged frequently, which shortens the release cycle, improves code quality and team's productivity[28].

Build of the Quiz Tool should at the very least:

- Checkout the source code from the version control
- Run all the tests
- Deploy the tool to the production environment when a production build runs

### 1.2.5 Authentication and Security

LDAP authentication could not be used with the production environment provided by AWS. The alternative would be to use the Google Single Sign On[2], where lecturers could login to the tool using their Google credentials. The major drawback of this approach is that anyone with a Google

account can login into the tool as a lecturer. The major advantage is, that the credentials handling would be outsourced to Google, making the Quiz Tool more secure and the tool would not have to store hashed passwords by simply relying on the confirmation of user's identity by Google.

Having said that, Google ids would still be stored in MongoDB to uniquely identify lecturers in the future, and to know who is the owner of lectures in the system. Due to the fact that the interaction of the Docker containers making up the Quiz Tool would be managed by docker-compose, the MongoDB container could be hidden from the outside world and could be only accessed from the server container running the back end code. This would make the database more secure.

### 1.2.6 Top Level Requirements

Even though the tool would be developed using an agile approach, as described in the next section of this document, certain top level functional requirements have been identified before the development work had started. The initial conversation with the client (the supervisor of the project) yielded the following requirements:

- **FR-1** - Add a login page for lecturers. As a lecturer it should be possible to login into the tool using lecturer's credentials.
- **FR-2** - Add a login page for students. As a student it should be possible to join an ongoing session using the session code provided by the lecturer.
- **FR-3** - Add a dashboard for lecturers to upload their lecture slides to.
- **FR-4** - Add the ability to add quizzes to lectures.
- **FR-5** - Add the ability to broadcast lectures.
- **FR-6** - Add the ability to export lecture session results in some format for future analysis.

## 1.3 Process

### 1.3.1 Version Control

Git[29] would be used for the version control during the development of the Quiz Tool, together with the GitHub[30] web-based hosting service. The source code would be stored in a private repository. There would be a `master` production branch, and suitable guards would be added so that new code cannot be pushed directly to the production branch. The feature-branch git workflow[31] would be used and each `feature-branch` would need to have an associated issue (story) on GitHub. Then a pull request could be opened between the `feature-branch` and the `master` branch, and Circle CI would checkout the code, run all tests and report back to GitHub to either allow the merge or block it, depending on whether the build was successful or not. Once the pull request is merged into `master`, a production build would run, where Circle CI would checkout the code, run all the tests and finally automatically deploy the new version of the Quiz Tool to the production environment provided by AWS.

The Kanban board provided by the ZenHub Chrome plugin[32] would be used. It would allow issues to be grouped into epics, and each story could have a corresponding amount of points assigned to it, depending on the likely complexity of the task. For example a single point would correspond to half day of work.

### **1.3.2 Development Methodology**

The application would be developed using the SCRUM methodology adjusted for a single person project. The development work would be split into weekly sprints. Each sprint would start with sprint planning, where issues would be created and their complexity would be estimated using ZenHub story points. During the week, issues would be tackled, and the progress could be monitored using the Kanban board. GitHub labels would be used to quickly differentiate between different types of issues. For example there would be a different coloured label for front end tasks, back end tasks, documentation, DevOps etc. Time commitment would also be tracked on day to day basis using a Google Sheets spreadsheet[33]. Each sprint would end with a sprint retrospective, where a document would be produced containing a list of things that went well during the week, and things that could be improved. Weekly meetings with the client (supervisor) would provide immediate feedback on work done and allow re-adjustment of the approach necessary to stay on track to deliver the software before the deadline. Finally, velocity would be tracked and burn down charts automatically produced following each iteration. This would give more confidence in estimating the future work.

## Chapter 2

# Design & Implementation

The structure of this chapter follows the agile methodology used to develop the Quiz Tool. Each section contains information about a sprint, allowing the reader to gain more understanding of how the design and the tool itself evolved over time.

## 2.1 Sprint 1 - Hello Quiz Tool

### 2.1.1 Sprint Planning

The first sprint of the Quiz Tool focused on setting up the DevOps of the project, and deployment of a "hello world" version of the tool consisting of the front end, back end and nginx[34] running together using docker-compose. It was also important to investigate how to best structure the application to include both the front and the back end of the application in a single GitHub repository. The following subsections cover the most important aspects of the sprint, and the entire list of estimated stories can be found in the Appendix C of this report.

### 2.1.2 Application Structure

The main goal of using docker-compose, was to have the whole application running in the same manner locally on the developer's machine, during testing on Circle CI, and in the production environment. This meant the application had to be containerised using Docker, and containers had to be able to communicate with each other appropriately. This was even more difficult considering Socket.io had to be incorporated, to allow real time broadcast of lecture slides to students in the future. I have decided to create a prototype of a very basic chat application, containerised using Docker and orchestrated using docker-compose. The prototype had to be written in the MEAN stack, and use Socket.io to prove it was possible to make all technologies work together.

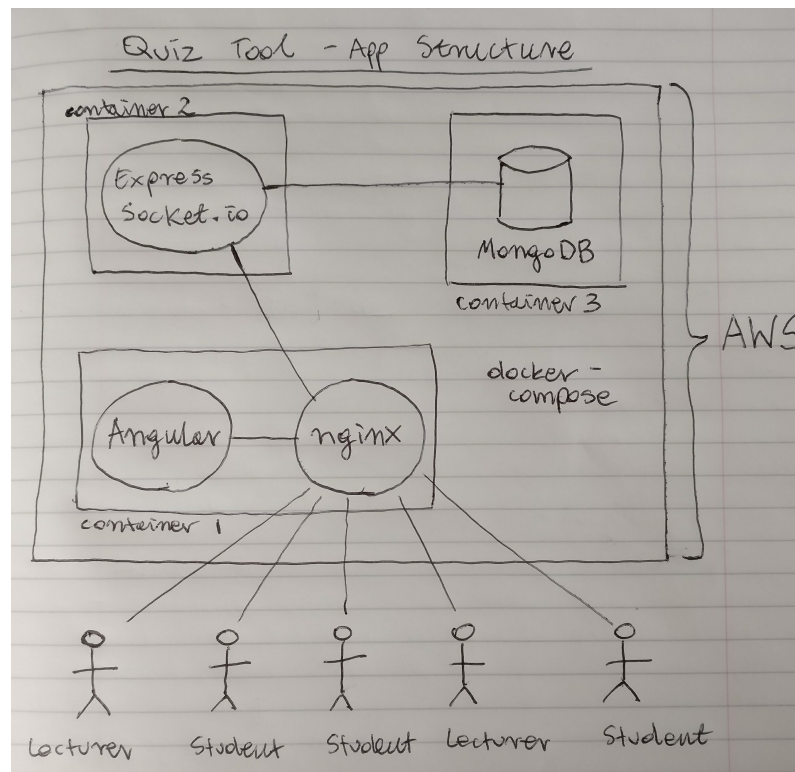


Figure 2.1: The proof of concept application structure

```

version: '2.0'
services:
  client:
    build: client
    ports:
      - "80:80"
    links:
      - server_node
  server_node:
    build: server
    links:
      - database
  database:
    image: mongo
    ports:
      - "27017:27017"

```

Figure 2.2: The docker-compose.yml file describing the tool's structure

### 2.1.2.1 Front End Container

The front end container consisted of Angular 4 and nginx reverse proxy. The structure has been based on the *Dockerized Angular 4 App (with Angular CLI)* repository[35]. The Socket.io client dependency has been added to allow sending messages to the back end using sockets. The Dockerfile below uses the multi-stage build added in Docker 17.05. The Angular app is compiled to



JavaScript and HTML files during the initial stage of the build, and then these files are copied to the nginx public folder to be served to clients. This results in a lean, production ready image.

```
### STAGE 1: Build ###

# We label our stage as 'builder'
FROM node:8-alpine as builder

COPY package.json package-lock.json ./

RUN npm set progress=false && npm config set depth 0 && npm cache clean --force

## Storing node modules on a separate layer will prevent unnecessary npm installs at each build
RUN npm i && mkdir /ng-app && cp -R ./node_modules ./ng-app

WORKDIR /ng-app

COPY . .

## Build the angular app in production mode and store the artifacts in dist folder
RUN $(npm bin)/ng build --prod --build-optimizer

### STAGE 2: Setup ###

FROM nginx:1.13.3-alpine

## Copy our default nginx config
COPY nginx/default.conf /etc/nginx/conf.d/

## Remove default nginx website
RUN rm -rf /usr/share/nginx/html/*

## From 'builder' stage copy over the artifacts in dist folder to default nginx public folder
COPY --from=builder /ng-app/dist /usr/share/nginx/html

CMD ["nginx", "-g", "daemon off;"]
```

Figure 2.3: Front End Dockerfile

### 2.1.2.2 Back End Container

The back end container consisted of a Node.js runtime, Express framework and the Socket.io engine capable of pushing messages to clients using Sockets. The following Dockerfile illustrates the very basic Node container.

```
FROM node:carbon
WORKDIR /usr/src/app
COPY package*.json ./
RUN npm install
COPY . .
EXPOSE 3000
CMD [ "npm", "start" ]
```

Figure 2.4: Back End Dockerfile

### 2.1.2.3 Database Container

Finally, the MongoDB Docker container has been pulled automatically from the official mongo Docker Hub registry[36].

### **2.1.3 Continuous Integration**

### **2.1.4 Production Environment**

### **2.1.5 Story Boards**

### **2.1.6 Sprint Retrospective**

## **2.2 Sprint 2 - Bare Bone Application**

### **2.2.1 Sprint Planning**

### **2.2.2 Sprint Retrospective**

## **2.3 Sprint 3 - Add Quizes**

### **2.3.1 Sprint Planning**

### **2.3.2 Sprint Retrospective**

## **2.4 Sprint 4 - Fancy Quizes and Defect Fixing**

### **2.4.1 Sprint Planning**

### **2.4.2 Sprint Retrospective**

## **2.5 Sprint 5 - Persistence, Report Generation and Testing**

### **2.5.1 Sprint Planning**

### **2.5.2 Sprint Retrospective**

## **Chapter 3**

# **Final Design**

This chapter follows on the discussion of the individual sprints and summarises the final design of the tool.

## **Chapter 4**

# **Testing**

### **4.1 Server Side Unit Tests**

### **4.2 Client Side Unit Tests**

### **4.3 Selenium Integration Tests**

## Chapter 5

# Evaluation

Examiners expect to find in your dissertation a section addressing such questions as:

- Were the requirements correctly identified?
- Were the design decisions correct?
- Could a more suitable set of tools have been chosen?
- How well did the software meet the needs of those who were expecting to use it?
- How well were any other project aims achieved?
- If you were starting again, what would you do differently?

Other questions can be addressed as appropriate for a project.

Such material is regarded as an important part of the dissertation; it should demonstrate that you are capable not only of carrying out a piece of work but also of thinking critically about how you did it and how you might have done it better. This is seen as an important part of an honours degree.

There will be good things and room for improvement with any project. As you write this section, identify and discuss the parts of the work that went well and also consider ways in which the work could be improved.

In the latter stages of the module, we will discuss the evaluation. That will probably be around week 9, although that differs each year.

## Appendix A

# Third-Party Code and Libraries

If you have made use of any third party code or software libraries, i.e. any code that you have not designed and written yourself, then you must include this appendix.

As has been said in lectures, it is acceptable and likely that you will make use of third-party code and software libraries. If third party code or libraries are used, your work will build on that to produce notable new work. The key requirement is that we understand what is your original work and what work is based on that of other people.

Therefore, you need to clearly state what you have used and where the original material can be found. Also, if you have made any changes to the original versions, you must explain what you have changed.

As an example, you might include a definition such as:

Apache POI library - The project has been used to read and write Microsoft Excel files (XLS) as part of the interaction with the client's existing system for processing data. Version 3.10-FINAL was used. The library is open source and it is available from the Apache Software Foundation [?]. The library is released using the Apache License [?]. This library was used without modification.

## **Appendix B**

# **Ethics Submission**

Ethics Application Number: 9563

**AU Status**

Undergraduate or PG Taught

**Your aber.ac.uk email address**

mwg2@aber.ac.uk

**Full Name**

Michal Wojciech Goly

**Please enter the name of the person responsible for reviewing your assessment.**

Prof. Reyer Zwiggelaar

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rrz@aber.ac.uk

**Supervisor or Institute Director of Research Department**

cs

**Module code (Only enter if you have been asked to do so)**

CS39440

**Proposed Study Title**

MMP - Quiz Tool

**Proposed Start Date**

29/01/2018

**Proposed Completion Date**

04/05/2018

**Are you conducting a quantitative or qualitative research project?**

Mixed Methods

**Does your research require external ethical approval under the Health Research Authority?**

No

**Does your research involve animals?**

No

**Are you completing this form for your own research?**

Yes

**Does your research involve human participants?**

No

**Institute**

IMPACS

**Please provide a brief summary of your project (150 word max)**

A web application allowing lecturers to upload their PDF lecture slides, convert certain slides to quizzes (e.g. a slide with bullet points into a single choice A) B) C) quiz), and then broadcasting them to students to monitor their understanding of lecture content presented.



**Where appropriate, do you have consent for the publication, reproduction or use of any unpublished material?**

Not applicable

**Will appropriate measures be put in place for the secure and confidential storage of data?**

Yes

**Does the research pose more than minimal and predictable risk to the researcher?**

Not applicable

**Will you be travelling, as a foreign national, in to any areas that the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise against travel to?**

No

**Please include any further relevant information for this section here:**

**If you are to be working alone with vulnerable people or children, you may need a DBS (CRB) check. Tick to confirm that you will ensure you comply with this requirement should you identify that you require one.**

Yes

**Declaration: Please tick to confirm that you have completed this form to the best of your knowledge and that you will inform your department should the proposal significantly change.**

Yes

**Please include any further relevant information for this section here:**

## **Appendix C**

# **Sprint Stories**

## **Appendix D**

# **Sprint Retrospective Documents**

## Appendix E

# Code Examples

For some projects, it might be relevant to include some code extracts in an appendix. You are not expected to put all of your code here - the correct place for all of your code is in the technical submission that is made in addition to the Final Report. However, if there are some notable aspects of the code that you discuss, including that in an appendix might be useful to make it easier for your readers to access.

As a general guide, if you are discussing short extracts of code then you are advised to include such code in the body of the report. If there is a longer extract that is relevant, then you might include it as shown in the following section.

Only include code in the appendix if that code is discussed and referred to in the body of the report.

### 5.1 Random Number Generator

The Bayes Durham Shuffle ensures that the psuedo random numbers used in the simulation are further shuffled, ensuring minimal correlation between subsequent random outputs [?].

```
#define IM1 2147483563
#define IM2 2147483399
#define AM (1.0/IM1)
#define IMM1 (IM1-1)
#define IA1 40014
#define IA2 40692
#define IQ1 53668
#define IQ2 52774
#define IR1 12211
#define IR2 3791
#define NTAB 32
#define NDIV (1+IMM1/NTAB)
#define EPS 1.2e-7
#define RNMX (1.0 - EPS)
```

```

double ran2(long *idum)
{
    /*-----*/
    /* Minimum Standard Random Number Generator      */
    /* Taken from Numerical recipies in C             */
    /* Based on Park and Miller with Bays Durham Shuffle */
    /* Coupled Schrage methods for extra periodicity   */
    /* Always call with negative number to initialise  */
    /*-----*/

    int j;
    long k;
    static long idum2=123456789;
    static long iy=0;
    static long iv[NTAB];
    double temp;

    if (*idum <=0)
    {
        if (-(*idum) < 1)
        {
            *idum = 1;
        }else
        {
            *idum = -(*idum);
        }
        idum2=(*idum);
        for (j=NTAB+7; j>=0; j--)
        {
            k = (*idum)/IQ1;
            *idum = IA1 *(*idum-k*IQ1) - IR1*k;
            if (*idum < 0)
            {
                *idum += IM1;
            }
            if (j < NTAB)
            {
                iv[j] = *idum;
            }
        }
        iy = iv[0];
    }
    k = (*idum)/IQ1;
    *idum = IA1*(*idum-k*IQ1) - IR1*k;
    if (*idum < 0)
    {
        *idum += IM1;
    }
}

```

```
k = (idum2)/IQ2;  
idum2 = IA2*(idum2-k*IQ2) - IR2*k;  
if (idum2 < 0)  
{  
    idum2 += IM2;  
}  
j = iy/NDIV;  
iy=iv[j] - idum2;  
iv[j] = *idum;  
if (iy < 1)  
{  
    iy += IMM1;  
}  
if ((temp=AM*iy) > RNMX)  
{  
    return RNMX;  
}  
else  
{  
    return temp;  
}  
}
```

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